



What if someone were to offer you a 250 percent annual return on investment? My guess is you'd jump at it. That ROI is precisely what the Commonwealth of Virginia earns annually on the transit capital and operating funds it spends on Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express, according to a new report by NVTC. It turns out that the extra 85,000 households and 130,500 jobs that the rail systems make possible here in Northern Virginia generate over \$600 million each year in sales and income tax revenues that flow to Richmond.

\$600 million, while just over 3 percent of general fund revenues, is nothing to sneeze at. It easily covers Virginia's annual general fund expenditures on state colleges and universities, about \$316 million, and state police, roughly \$266 million.

Part of what distinguishes this study from previous ones – including reports issued by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and NVTC – is that it is dynamic rather than static, accounting for the level of activity that the regional transportation network can support. It raises the bar for future transportation studies, both here in the Commonwealth and beyond.

While this is a NVTC product, it was informed by the expert opinions of others. NVTC engaged its peers in the transportation community – COG, WMATA, the Transportation Planning Board, Federal Transit Administration, George Mason University, and nationally recognized transit consultants – in a comprehensive technical review of the study's methodology and assumptions. These groups considered the work plan, technical approach, and findings and provided comments on the study.

The eight-page report, contained in our September meeting materials, provides an overview of NVTC's work and findings. It will be complemented by a one-page summary, infographic, and opinion pieces for area newspapers. A detailed technical report will be issued in October.

I am proud of the NVTC staff's work on this report and have no doubt it will contribute to a better understanding of the benefits Metro and VRE bring to Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth. The importance of the findings cannot be overstated and they will be of enormous value as we continue our discussions about finding dedicated and sustainable sources of funding for these two vital rail systems.



Executive Director

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Key Dates

Sept. 7	NVTC Monthly Meeting
Sept. 14	NVTA Monthly Meeting
Sept. 14	WMATA Board Committees
Sept. 15	VRE Operations Board
Sept. 18	VDOT Fall Open House
Sept. 19-20	CTB Monthly Meeting
Sept. 20	I-66 Commuter Choice Launch
Sept. 20	Transportation Planning Board
Sept. 28	WMATA Board
Sept. 28	Fairfax Rail Safety Event

Governor to Host I-66 Commuter Choice Program Kick Off on Sept. 20

With four of the 10 multimodal projects funded by NVTC now operational and the others preparing to come online by year's end, NVTC and VDOT will kick off its I-66 Commuter Choice program, formerly Transform 66 Multimodal, on September 20 at 2 p.m. in Falls Church. Governor Terry McAuliffe and Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne will host the event, which will include an announcement of a second call for projects. There will be transit-themed music and snacks, and grant recipients — Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties, the City of Falls Church, and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission — will have informational displays to bring guests up to speed regarding their new services/facilities. NVTC is creating a new I-66 Commuter Choice web page, which will go live around the time of the kick-off event.



A promotional graphic for the I-66 Commuter Choice program launch event. It features a large blue and red shield with the number "66" in the center. To the right of the shield, the text reads "Join Us for the Launch of Commuter Choice INSIDE THE BELTWAY". Below this, it says "Join NVTC, VDOT & I-66 Commuter Choice Grant Recipients on Wed., Sept. 20, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Center 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church to Celebrate the Launch of New Transit Service & Other Multimodal Projects". The background of the graphic shows various transit-related scenes like a bus stop and people.

Ground Broken for I-395 Express Lanes Extension

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne joined local officials and private partners in mid-August to break ground for new [express lanes on I-395](#), revenue from which will fund transit in Northern Virginia. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is recommending that NVTC and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission jointly evaluate and select multimodal projects that will benefit toll payers in the corridor. The multi-year agreement between the Commonwealth and

Transurban, the Australian firm that built the high-occupancy toll lanes on Interstates 495 and 95, earmarks \$15 million for transit in the first year and includes an annual escalation. The I-395 project will extend the northern end of the I-95 Express Lanes up to the D.C. line, with reversible toll lanes operating in the northbound direction during morning rush hour and southbound in the afternoon. Carpoolers with three or more occupants will ride free. More information will be provided this fall.



VDOT Begins Testing of I-66 Tolling Equipment

The Virginia Department of Transportation has been [conducting field tests of the electronic tolling equipment](#) for the I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes to ensure the system is fully functional when tolling begins this December during weekday, rush-hour periods. Testing will continue into the fall. The dynamically tolled express lanes, which will provide revenue for NVTC's I-66 Commuter Choice program, are scheduled to open in December 2017 on the nine-mile stretch of I-66, from I-495 to U.S. Route 29 in Rosslyn. They will provide a new option for single-occupant drivers, who currently are unable to use the lanes during weekday peak periods. Vehicles with two or more people can continue to use the lanes for free. All vehicles traveling during these periods will need an E-ZPass transponder, and HOV-2+ vehicles will need an E-ZPass Flex transponder switched to HOV-mode to travel for free. Once open in

December, the 66 Express Lanes inside the Beltway will be effective from 5:30-9:30 a.m. eastbound and from 3-7 p.m. westbound, Monday through Friday. The lanes will remain free to all users during the off-peak periods, including weekends.



The Value of Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express to Virginia

NVTC will formally release its report, The Value of Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express to the Commonwealth of Virginia, at the Commission's September 7

meeting. The report details several key findings, which are graphically displayed below.

More than \$600M



in sales and income tax revenue sent to the state's general fund in fiscal year 2018 that was generated by the additional households and jobs that rail supports

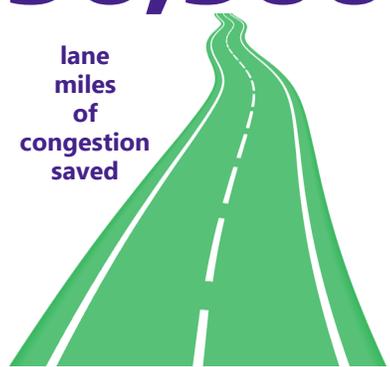
250% ROI



received by the commonwealth from the \$170 million it provided to Metro and VRE in fiscal year 2018

56,500

lane miles of congestion saved



85K



additional households in Northern Virginia

130,500



additional jobs in Northern Virginia

130K



additional daily transit trips in Northern Virginia

NVTC Coordinates Bus Farebox Technology Testing

Software development continues for the farebox/driver control unit project. NVTC is assisting local jurisdictions with the purchase and testing of new equipment and software to prolong the life of existing bus fareboxes. WMATA anticipates testing to begin in October. The software developer, Cubic, has contracted with other vendors, GenFare and Clever Devices, to resolve outstanding software development and integration tasks. NVTC is coordinating with WMATA on equipment requirements for Northern Virginia testing participants (Fairfax Connector and Loudoun County Transit). Addi-

tionally, NVTC is coordinating with the regional entities on purchases of long lead-time equipment so that roll-out can begin in early 2018.

NVTC has coordinated with regional entities interested in off-board fare collection, including participation in vendor demonstrations of mobile ticketing. NVTC will continue technology evaluations for off-board fare collection. A Fare Collection Technology Workshop, being organized by NVTC, will share emerging fare collection technologies and long-term fare collection strategy.

CTB to Hold Sept. 18 Open House/Town Hall Meeting in Fairfax

As it looks at revising [SMART SCALE](#), an evaluation process that prioritizes transportation projects, the Commonwealth Transportation Board will hold an [open house at 4 p.m. on September 18](#) at [VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office](#) in Fairfax. The open house will provide information on various transportation initiatives, including recently funded projects in the [Six-Year Improvement Program](#), Virginia's [Statewide Transportation Improvement Program](#), and the [VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan](#). Transit agencies and organizations are encouraged to set up and staff a display during the open house. Agencies should confirm their participation by [emailing](#)

[the Department of Rail and Public Transportation](#) no later than September 10. A town hall session, where citizens can engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives, will follow the open house. Comments will be accepted informally at the meeting and may also be submitted afterwards.



Around Town: Headlines from/about NVTC Jurisdictions and Partners



[Arlington Surveys Residents as Part of Bike Master Plan Update](#)

[Cristol: Pedestrian-Only Street Can Help Make Rosslyn a Destination](#)



[Capital Bikeshare App is Here!](#)



[Capital Bikeshare Expansion - Preliminary Station Locations in Falls Church](#)



[Interactive maps show how and where people travel on Metro](#)

Save the Date: September 20, 2017

NVTC's I-66 Commuter Choice Kickoff

See page 2 for details

Metro Safety Commission Receives Presidential Approval

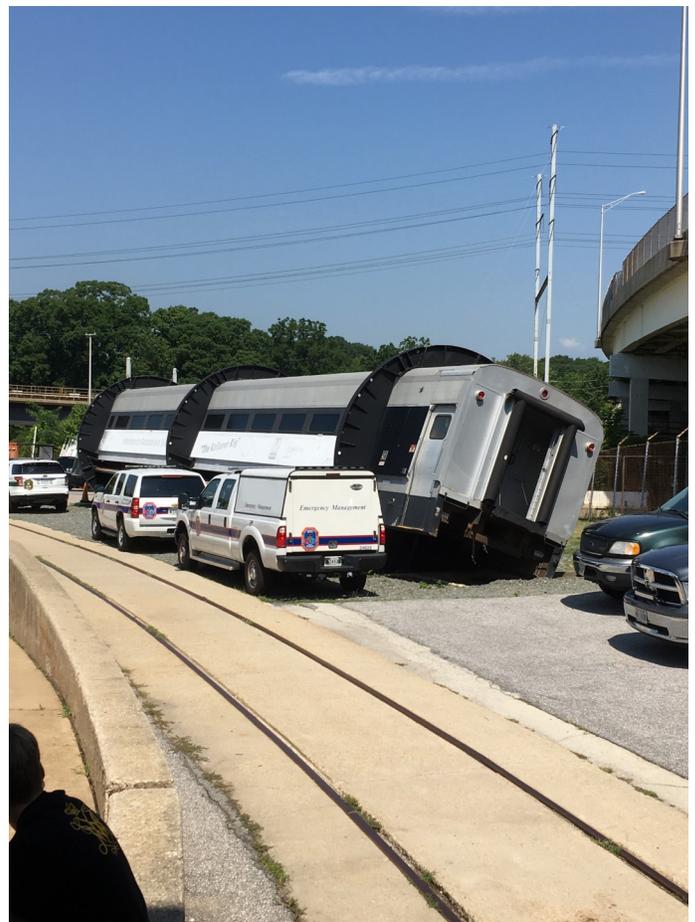
President Donald Trump signed legislation last week giving the go-ahead for a new safety commission that would allow Maryland, Virginia and D.C. to take back primary responsibility for safety oversight of Metro. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been overseeing safety on the rail system since 2015 following a series of critical lapses. FTA will continue to

oversee safety until it determines that the new commission is capable of meeting its responsibilities. FTA has indicated it will continue to withhold certain funds from transit agencies in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia until it certifies the Metro Safety Commission as operational.

WMATA Tour Provides Jurisdictional Staff with Insight into Operations

NVTC and jurisdictional staff toured WMATA's Carmen Turner Facility in Landover, Maryland in early August. Organized by WMATA Government Relations staff, the

tour included the Rail Operations Control Center, Bus Operations Control Center, Office of Emergency Management and Office of Elevator and Escalator Services.



An escalator and rail car are used to train maintenance technicians at WMATA's Carmen Turner Facility in Landover, Maryland.

Mark Your Calendar for December 4, 2017



NVTC & PRTC Joint Legislative Conference

9-11 a.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA



Potomac and Rappahannock
Transportation Commission

Virginia Department of Transportation

VDOT's I-66 Active Traffic Management System is nominated for an AASHTO People's Choice Award.



Visit www.AmericasTransportationAwards.org and

VOTE NOW!

(You can vote once per day until voting ends September 21.)

Transportation Planning Board



In a [recent web post](#), TPB asked: "What do wheelchair-accessible vans, programs to educate seniors about mobility options, and coordinating teams of volunteer drivers to provide rides for seniors and people with disabilities have in common?"

The answer is that they are all examples of projects that can receive funding through the federal Enhanced Mobility program. TPB plays a key role in administering Enhanced Mobility funding locally. The next solicitation for Enhanced Mobility funding is now underway. The application window closes November 3. Potential applicants must have attended a pre-application conference.



Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce



Transportation and infrastructure are chief among the topics to be discussed by regional leaders at a forum co-hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and Maryland's Senior U.S. Senator Ben Cardin are among those who will share their cooperative efforts to bolster the regional economy in an ever competitive global marketplace. The [Capital Region Business Forum](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.



WMATA



Metro [added underground wireless service between Metro Center and Potomac Avenue stations](#) in mid-August. This third tunnel segment provides riders on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines with a continuous voice, text and data connections from Metro Center to Stadium-Armory. Metro and four carriers – AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless – previously installed wireless service in all underground Metro stations and in April introduced service on the Red Line from Glenmont Station to the Silver Spring Station tunnel portal. The activation of wireless service in additional tunnel segments will be announced as collaborative work continues, with all tunnels projected to be covered by December 2020.

